GT 4/13/93

Plan for new vote on Amendment 2 goes nowhere

Senate committee kills proposal

Gazette Telegraph and news services

DENVER — A Senate committee Monday killed a lawmaker's proposal to let voters decide whether to repeal controversial Amendment 2.

After hearing bitter, emotional exchanges from witnesses, the Senate State Affairs Committee voted 4-3 along party lines to quash the resolution offered by Sen. Regis Groff, D-Denver. Approval by two-thirds of the House and Senate would have been needed before the proposal would have appeared on a statewide ballot.

The amendment, approved by voters in November, prohibits laws that protect homosexuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. It has been blocked from taking effect until a court challenge is heard, but the measure has focused attention on Colorado and made it a target of boycotts by Amendment 2 opponents.

Groff said the amendment already has cost the state $35 million in canceled conferences and meetings.

"What I'm trying to do is say to the citizens of Colorado, 'Do you want to keep it? Was it a good idea or, perhaps, was it a bad idea?' " Groff said.

He said Amendment 2 poses a serious moral question, and he challenged those who favor the law to tell him whether Colorado is a better place because of it.

Will Perkins, a Colorado Springs auto dealer and chairman of the group that wrote Amendment 2, Colorado for Family Values, responded that a majority of people in the state favored the amendment and he thinks "the integrity of the state and national civil rights laws have been maintained."

But Linda Fowler, a member of the Denver mayor's gay and lesbian advisory committee, said, "We are the targets of discrimination in this state.

"Amendment 2 sends a message to these people that this is the type of behavior that is going to be tolerated in this state," she said.

Jodi Andrade, who works with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Denver, said reports of violence directed at gays and lesbians have increased from 12 a month before the amendment's approval to 45 a month afterward.

"It heralds a new era of violence," she said.

But Kevin Tebedo, an active member of Colorado for Family Values, said homosexuals haven't been the only ones to experience harassment and threats.

"Hate crimes in the Tebedo family have gone up 100 percent," he told the committee.

He said he has received death threats, numerous harassing telephone calls and letters accusing him of being a Nazi.

James Joy, director of the Colorado chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the amendment is unconstitutional and urged the committee "to give people a chance to overturn this abomination and incredible embarrassment to Colorado."

of a popular black leader./**A6**

▶ **SEEKING SUPPORT FOR REFORM:** Russian President Boris Yeltsin campaigned Monday for the "new Russia" and its economic reforms./**A7**

CITY/REGION

▶ **DISCUSSING PROBLEM OF PROSTITUTION:** Citizens and Colorado Springs police officials met Monday to discuss prostitution in the south end of downtown, and members of the skeptical crowd had no shortage of suggestions for police./**B1**

▶ **UCCS CHANGES AID FORMULA:** Under a new financial-aid formula at UCCS, about 700 more students are expected to qualify for grants and loans./**B2**

OPINION

▶ **FOUNDING FATHER:** One of Thomas Jefferson's many lasting legacies was his respect for the constitutional limitations on the presidency, scholar David Mayer writes in observing Jefferson's 250th birthday, which is today./**B5**

STATE

▶ **CHILD'S DEATH SECOND FOR FAMILY:** A child who fell to her death from a window during the weekend in Northglenn died about a month after her sister fell off a bed and suffocated./**B6**

SPORTS

▶ **ROCKIES RAINED OUT:** What would have been the first night contest in the Rockies' brief history was postponed when Monday's game between the New York Mets and Colorado was rained out./**C1**

▶ **SUMMER GAMES:** Air Force basketball coach Reggie Minton has been named coach of the U.S. team in the World University Games in Buffalo, N.Y., July 8-18./**C2**

Bushes' trip stalled

Workers assess damage to a Kuwait Jet Monday in Houston after the plane former President George Bush and h made an emergency landing short takeoff. No injuries were reported. The will try the trip again today. NATION/**A4**

LIFESTYLE

▶ **BEING A GOOD EMPLOYEE:** As emp demand more flexibility and other conside from their employers, they need to remem employment is a two-way street. Are you employee?/**D1**

BUSINESS

▶ **FOCUSING ON FERROELECTRICS:** A man of Colorado Springs-based Symetrix Carlos Paz de Araujo is touting a new Japa made cellular telephone that uses his con ferroelectric materials. He's also chairman international ferroelectrics symposium tha held in Colorado Springs next week./**F1**

▶ **3M BUYS PLANT SITE:** Minnesota M Manufacturing Co. has bought more than acres in northern Colorado Springs under a stockpile sites and prepare land for future plants./**F1**

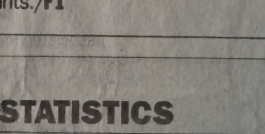
LOCAL FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy, breezy, chilly; shower or two. High 46.
Tonight: Brisk, cold; rain shower, then snow showers later. Low 29.
Wednesday: Windy at times, chilly; rain or snow showers. High 44, low 29.
Thursday: Becoming partly sunny, still chilly. High 44, low 31.
Friday: Plenty of sunshine, milder. High 55, low 35.

STATISTICS

AIR QUALITY

(3 p.m. MON. APR. 12)



OZONE - 40
CARBON MONOXIDE - 9

24-HOUR